

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:
 - a layer of oil absorbing material; and
 - a layer of oil adsorbing material covering said layer of oil absorbing material.
2. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of CHEMTEX copolymer, Imbiber Beads and other materials capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids.
3. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of oil adsorbing material is selected from the group consisting of peat moss, Peat Sorb, Fuller's Earth, fly ash, rock wool and other solids that are capable of adsorbing or retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.
4. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises a granular layer of an oil absorbing material and/or an absorbent pad containing the oil absorbing material.
5. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said layer of oil adsorbing material.
6. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an oil and water permeable membrane between said layer of oil adsorbing material and said layer of fire retardant material
7. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a layer of aggregate material positioned beneath said layer of oil absorbing material.

8. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a water permeable membrane between said layer of oil absorbing material and said layer of aggregate material.
9. An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:
 - a support structure defining a plurality of cells; and
 - an oil absorbing material received in the cells of said support structure.
10. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising an oil adsorbing material received in the cells of said support structure.
11. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said support structure comprises a geosynthetic material.
12. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said oil absorbing material comprises an oil absorbing granular polymer and/or an oil absorbing porous solid material .
13. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said oil absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of CHEMTEx copolymer, Imbiber Beads and other materials capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids.
14. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said oil adsorbing material is selected from the group consisting of peat moss, Peat Sorb, Fuller's Earth, fly ash, rock wool and other solids that are capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.
15. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said support structure.

16. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said layer of fire retardant material comprises crushed limestone.

17. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said oil spill containment system is received in a containment basin beneath and around the oil containing vessel.

18. An oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

a geosynthetic material defining a plurality of cells, including;

an oil absorbing material received in the cells of said geosynthetic material; and

an oil adsorbing material received in the cells of said geosynthetic material; and

a geotextile fabric covering said geosynthetic material, said geotextile fabric being permeable to oil and water.

19. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said oil absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of CHEMTEX copolymer, Imbiber Beads and other materials capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids, and wherein said oil adsorbing material is selected from the group consisting of peat moss, Peat Sorb, Fuller's Earth, fly ash, rock wool and other solids that are capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.

20. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said geotextile fabric.

21. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said layer of fire retardant material comprises crushed limestone.

22. An oil retention tray for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, comprising:

an elongate tray having a mesh bottom and being open at the top thereof;
a layer of oil absorbing material received on said mesh bottom; and
a layer of oil adsorbing material covering said layer of oil absorbing material.

23. The oil retention tray as claimed in claim 22, wherein said layer of oil absorbing material comprises an absorbent pad containing an oil absorbing granular polymer and/or an oil absorbing porous solid material

24. The oil retention tray as claimed in claim 23, further comprising an oil and water permeable membrane covering said layer of oil adsorbing material, and an oil and water impermeable membrane covering the sides of said oil elongate tray.

25. The oil spill containment system as claimed in claim 24, further comprising a layer of fire retardant material covering said oil and water permeable membrane.

26. A method of preparing an oil spill containment system for containing oil spills or leaks from an oil containing vessel, wherein the oil spill containment system is received in a containment basin beneath and around the oil containing vessel, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a layer of oil absorbing material within the containment basin; and
covering the layer of oil absorbing material with a layer of oil adsorbing material.

27. The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of covering the layer of oil adsorbing material with a layer of fire retardant material.

28. The method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising the step of, prior to the step of forming a layer of oil absorbing material within the containment basin, forming a layer of aggregate material on the foundation of the containment basin.

29. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of covering the layer of aggregate material with a water permeable membrane.

30. The method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of covering the layer of oil absorbing material with an oil and water permeable membrane.

31. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the oil absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of CHEMTEX copolymer, Imbibier Beads or other materials capable of encapsulating hydrocarbons and dielectric insulating fluids, and wherein the oil adsorbing material is selected from the group consisting of peat moss, Peat Sorb, Fuller's Earth, fly ash, rock wool and other solids that are capable of retaining mineral oil and other dielectric insulating fluids.